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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/546,502	04/11/2000	Michael L. Denby	4045-A2	4775

7590                    08/27/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

ROWAN, KURT C

[REDACTED] ART UNIT      [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3643

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No. <b>09/546,502</b>	Applicant(s) <b>DENBY</b>	Examiner <b>KURT ROWAN</b>
		Art Unit <b>3643</b>

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 13, 2003.

2a)  This action is FINAL.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-3 and 37-41 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-3 and 37-41 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a)  approved b)  disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                              | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMahon in view of Drosdak '652.

The patents to Drosdak and McMahon show fishing line and lure connectors. Drosdak shows a line connector having a body 7 having a receptacle or socket 9 having inwardly directed extensions 10. Drosdak shows the body is capable of receiving the end segment of fishing line 6. Drosdak shows a coupler 8. Drosdak shows a first open end leading to a receptacle and a second opposing end. The patent to McMahon shows a connector having a body *a* and a coupler *b* attached to the body that is capable of engaging and supporting a fishing lure *B, C*. The coupler is comprised of a pair of resilient hooks disposed in an overlapping state forming a continuous loop in which the lure part is engagable to the coupler by forcing the hooks apart. In reference to claims 1-3, 37, it would have been obvious to provide McMahon with a coupler as shown by Drosdak since merely one equivalent mechanical coupler is being substituted for another. The

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hooks would be attached to the second end of the body. Drosdak shows the extensions positioned at spaced intervals along substantially the entire length of the receptacle and also shows the extensions being directed away from an open end of the body.

3. Claims 38-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Drosdak '767 in view of Drosdak '652.

The patents to Drosdak '767 and '652 show fishing line and lure couplers. Drosdak '652 has been discussed above and shows a first open end leading to a receptacle and an opposing second end. Drosdak '767 shows a coupler attached to a body 10-12, the coupler comprises a pair of opposing plates 14, 14' which are biased together and prongs 18, 20 carried by and between the plates capable of securing a hook eye of a lure. In reference to claim 38, it would have been obvious to provide Drosdak '767 with a coupler as shown by Drosdak '652 since merely one mechanically equivalent coupler is being substituted for another and the function is the same. In reference to claims 39-40, see the rejection of claims 2-3, above. In reference to claim 41, Drosdak '767 as modified by Drosdak '652 shows the pair of plates extending away from an open end of the body.

4.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **KURT ROWAN** whose telephone number is (703) 308-2321.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday

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from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 306-4195 or (703) 305-3597.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



KURT ROWAN

PRIMARY EXAMINER

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August 24, 2003